

## THE ECONOMY OF INDO-CHINA

mists of Tonkin make for difficulty in the dry season as well Great variability from one region to another, even nearby, has made it to organize a service which would link all the countries of the colony. A meteorological service must first be developed, with a network of observation posts in order to lessen the numerous dangers.

Military aviation is the only branch that has made any real headway. These 'planes have been very useful to administrators, in Laos and Annam, where the distances are great and present com-munications inadequate. Even there, heavy clouds and uncharted mountain peaks make the trip hazardous. A notable of

Lieut Guillaumot, from Vientiane to the Sino-Burmese frontier, accom-plished in spite of great difficulties, to the wonderment of the From this viewpoint, aviation has a distinct political importance in enhancing French prestige. Incidentally, the geographical service has profited by the photographic work of military aviators,

In addition to the local colonial aviation, there is an important international service connecting France with the colony. In 1931 the Marseille-Beirut line was prolonged to Saigon. This had an effect in facilitating close relations with the mother country. That year, 1930, a Bureau of Air Travel was created and placed under the Governor-General to co-ordinate all the governmental services to aviation.

### *Canals and Dykes*

The discovery of the inadequacy of the Mekong and Red Rivers « water highways was one of the early disillusionments of French in Indo-China. Both rivers flow from the high Chinese the characteristic common to all tropical rivers of

floods with periods of winter dryness. The gradient of the Red River is ten times that of the Mekong, so that it falls precipitously to the sea. This has created the imperative necessity, **since** time

of sheltering Tonkinese homes and rice-fields by means of dykes. The overflowing of the Mekong is, on the contrary, of a benefit to local agriculture. The rich alluvial soil left by the Mekong is duplicated by the torrential Red River, which must be **in** the nature of a price of survival. The nature of these two rivers, therefore, **has** forced hydraulic agriculture to take the form of dredging **in** **the** delta of the Red River. China and of reinforcing the dykes **in**, Tonkin. of must be utilized in relation to the local forms of irrigation,